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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A method for installing a cushion and an inflator/horn assembly into a cover having a cover cavity therein for the cushion using only a single reciprocatively movable piston within a tubular housing, said movable piston having an exterior periphery corresponding to the interior periphery of the tubular housing, said method comprising the steps of:

- attaching the cushion to a spacer which is receivable within the cover cavity and which is fixedly positioned relative to an end of the piston;
- securing the cover in a preferred orientation at one end of a the tubular housing;
- compacting the cushion into the cover cavity and around the spacer to define a sleeve cavity for the inflator/horn assembly by cycling the piston through one reciprocating movement cycle within the tubular housing; and
- removing the spacer from said cushion, thereby exposing the sleeve cavity within the compacted cushion for the inflator/horn assembly.

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2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of compacting further includes forming the sleeve cavity such that a predetermined thickness of cushion is disposed between the sleeve cavity and the cover such that a predetermined amount of force applied to the cover will activate the horn.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of inserting a retaining ring into a cushion such that said step of attaching the cushion to the spacer is further defined by attaching said retaining ring to the spacer.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further including a base to which the cover is secured, and wherein the tubular housing includes an upper and lower platform, and wherein said compacting step is further defined by using the interior of the tubular housing as a guide for guiding the cushion into the cover cavity as the piston moves through the tubular housing.

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the tubular housing is movable between an open position and a closed position relative to the base, wherein said step of securing the cushion to the spacer is further defined by securing the spacer to the piston and further including the steps of raising the piston within the tubular housing toward the upper platform, lowering the lower platform of the housing onto the base to secure the cover, and driving the piston within the housing to compact the cushion into the cover cavity of the cover.

6. (currently amended) An assembly for assembling a cushion to a cover, said assembly comprising:
- a base for supporting the cover;
 - a housing defining a generally hollow housing cavity;
 - an air bag housing slidably disposed within said housing cavity; and
 - piston means comprising a single reciprocally movable element having an exterior periphery corresponding to an interior periphery of the housing cavity, for moving the air bag in an up stroke and down stroke within the cavity in a single cycle and for folding the air bag into the cover at the end of the down stroke.
7. (currently amended) An assembly as in claim 5 6, wherein the tubular housing is shaped to form the outer periphery of said compacted cushion.
8. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The assembly as in claim 5 6, wherein the spacer includes an outer periphery shaped to form the sleeve cavity within the cushion.
9. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The assembly as in claim 5 6, wherein said cushion further includes a retaining ring to attach said cushion to said spacer.
10. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The assembly as in claim 5 6, wherein said piston is pneumatically actuated between an open and closed position.

11. (currently amended) A method for installing a cushion into an interior cavity of a cover using one reciprocatively movable piston having a fixed spacer and an exterior periphery corresponding to an interior periphery of the interior cavity,

said method comprising the steps of:

forming a cushion subassembly and attaching same to the piston, the subassembly including a cushion housing and the cushion;

positioning the cover apart from the piston;

moving the piston and the attached cushion assembly along a fixed tube in a first direction away from the cover to cause the cushion to expand as it rubs against the inner sides of the tube;

moving the piston toward the cover to press the cushion and fixed spacer into the cover, thereby folding same and positioning the housing atop the now folded cushion within the interior of the cover.

12. (original) The method as defined in Claim 11 wherein the step of assembling a subassembly includes securing an inflator to the air bag housing.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously amended) The assembly as defined in Claim 6 wherein the spacer is a mock inflator movable with the piston and locatable within a determinable volume within the cover cavity to prevent the air bag from being folded within this volume.

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15. (currently amended) A method for installing a cushion into a cavity of a cover using only one reciprocally movable piston having an exterior periphery, said method comprising the steps of:

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- a) providing a hollow folding tube having an interior periphery generally corresponding to the exterior periphery;
 - b) placing the piston near a determinable location in the folding tube;
 - c) attaching an air bag to an air bag housing sized to fit into the cover cavity;
 - d) securing the air bag housing to the piston;
 - e) withdrawing the piston up the folding tube to at least partially elongate the air bag;
 - f) positioning the cover proximate an open end of the folding tube with the cover cavity facing the open end; and
 - g) urging the piston, housing and air bag toward and into the cover cavity until the air bag fills the cover cavity and the housing is placed on the cover.
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